

ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT AMBULANCE PROVIDERS

Written Testimony - Gregory B. Allard, Vice President
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Public Safety and Security

March 3, 2009

SB 1010 An Act Concerning Exposure to Infectious Diseases and Emergency Responders

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and other distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee;

This written testimony is being submitted in support of Raised Bill No. 1010 "An Act Concerning Exposure to Infectious Diseases and Emergency Responders".

The members of our Association firmly support the legislation that the firefighters' union has raised. This legislation is a form of protection our personnel clearly require. There was legislation in place protecting our employees at the Federal level and it was known as the Ryan White Act. The Ryan White Act's primary function is to provide funding for HIV programs throughout the country. In 2008 when Congressional staff members were working to renew the Act, they found the Emergency-Response Section. The staffers did not understand why the section was there so they eliminated it. The Emergency-Response Section contained the same provisions that are outlined in SB. 1010.

The details in this bill clearly explain the steps that would be required to follow in the event of an exposure. The communication required has a channel to follow as each hospital has already identified a Pre-Hospital Coordinator to be the point person for each EMS agency in their region to communicate with. OSHA also dictates that each service have an Exposure Control Plan in place, and in accordance with that plan, they should have a person identified to handle these concerns. Having these pieces of the puzzle already in place makes the process that much easier to pick-up where we left off.

It is for these reasons that we feel it is imperative to support this legislation since it is in our employees' best interests and it rights the wrong that was done in Congress.

If you have any questions related to my testimony I encourage you to contact me. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

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